

Remarks

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Office Action dated March 23, 2004.

The above amendments and remarks to follow are intended to be fully responsive thereto.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 6-12, 14, 15, 18, 28 and 29 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mockridge. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Mockridge '459 fails to disclose a golf club head comprising a cast body constituted by a one-piece hollow outer shell defining a top portion, a sole portion, a heel wall and a toe portion, and a shaft securing portion extended from the top portion to the sole portion and formed homogeneously with the hollow outer shell to provide a one-piece, unitary, homogenous body. By contrary, the golf club head of Mockridge '459 has the sole plate 18, as part of the second shell part 12, formed separately from the first shell part 11. The socket 19 is extended from the sole plate 18 to the top 14.

The Examiner points out that at page 1, lines 20-22 and claims 1 and 4, and erroneously alleges that Mockridge discloses that the socket 19 is cast integrally with the hollow shell part 11. Contrary to the examiner's allegations Mockridge clearly discloses that the head is made of two or more parts: the first shell part 11 and the second shell part 12. In turn, the second shell part 12 includes the sole plate 18 and the socket 19.

Mockridge then discloses that the socket 19 may be cast integrally with the sole plate 18, not the second shell part 12 with the first shell part 11.

Moreover, claims 1 and 28 have been further amended to recite that the sole portion of the hollow outer shell covers substantially a whole of a bottom of the hollow outer shell, thus further defining the present invention over Mockridge. Mockridge fails

to disclose that the sole plate 18 covers substantially the whole of the bottom of the hollow outer shell.

As clearly shown in Fig. 1 of Mockridge, the bottom 15 of the first shell part 11 constitutes a part of the sole portion, but not the whole portion. Since the sole plate 18 is attached by welding around its periphery in the recess 16 to the bottom 15, strength of the club head is lower as compared with the club head according to the present invention.

Because of the aforementioned arguments, rejection under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mockridge is improper.

Claims 3, 6-12, 14, 15, 18 and 29 which depend from independent claims 1 or 28, the rejection of these claims are moot, in light of the Applicant's arguments above.

Claims 2, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mockridge in view of Motomiya. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claims 2, 4 and 5 depend upon the base claim 1, which, as argued above, the applicant believes is in condition for allowance, thereby mooting the Examiner's rejection.

Claims 13, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mockridge in view of Minabe. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claims 13, 20 and 21 depend upon the base claim 1, which, as argued above, the applicant believes is in condition for allowance, thereby mooting the Examiner's rejection.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mockridge in view of Endo. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claim 16 depends upon claim 1, which, as argued above, the applicant believes is in condition for allowance, thereby mooting the Examiner's rejection.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

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Mockridge in view of Mills. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claim 19 depends upon claim 1, which, as argued above, the applicant believes is in condition for allowance, thereby mooting the Examiner's rejection.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's admission of the prior art (Fig. 28 from Japanese Patent Publication No. 10-295857).
Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Take.
Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 28 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Drajan.
Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claims 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Claims 28 and 29 have been amended to overcome these rejections.

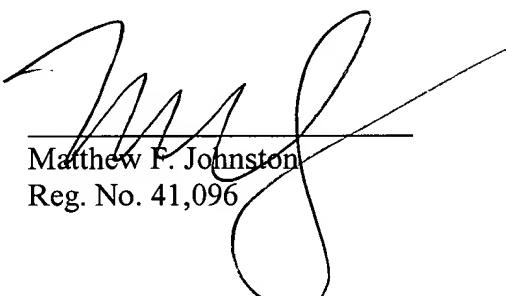
Claim 17 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 1. Claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

New claim 30 has been added.

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Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claim language would expedite prosecution they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,


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